WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1   1.   A method of combining formats for an electronic file, comprising:

2   combining data having at least two different encodings; and

3   presenting the combined data as homogenized data according to a reference

4 encoding.

1   2.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein the reference encoding

2 includes at least one of the at least two different encodings.

1   3.   A method according to Claim 2, wherein the reference encoding is

2 XML.

1   4.   A method according to Claim 3, wherein the combined data is

2 encoded into a single XML information set.

1   5.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein the combining comprises

2 referring to data.

1   6.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein the combining comprises

2 interleaving data.

1   7.   A method according to Claim 5, wherein the combining comprises

2 referring to data using an include element to reference binary data.

1   8.   A method according to Claim 7, wherein a href (Hypertext

2   REFerence) attribute of the include element provides a universal resource identifier of the

3   binary data to be referenced.

1   9.   A method according to Claim 5, wherein the combined data is

2   presented as a MIME serialization.

1   10.   A method according to Claim 7, wherein the include element

2   comprises a simple object access protocol (SOAP) header block.

1   11.   A method according to Claim 10, wherein the SOAP header block

2   indicates that the combined data includes the XML include element, and points to cached

3   representations of media resources.

1   12.   A method according to Claim 11, wherein the SOAP header block

2   points to any one of a web resource, an audio resource, and an image resource.

1   13.   A method according to Claim 6, wherein the combining comprises

2   combining data fragments, each data fragment being defined by values corresponding to

3   a respective encoding, length, and content.

1   14.   A method according to Claim 13, wherein a data fragment is notated

2   as <encoding> <length> <content>.

1   15.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure,

2   comprising:

3   a first data field encoded according to a first format; and

4   a second data field referring to data encoded according to a second format,

5   wherein the first data field and the second data field are homogenized

6   according to a reference encoding format.

1   16.   A computer-readable medium according to Claim 15, wherein the

2   reference encoding is XML.

1   17.   A computer-readable medium according to Claim 15, wherein the

2   homogenized data is encoded into a single XML information set.

1   18.   A computer-readable medium according to Claim 15, wherein at

2   least one of the first data field and the second data field comprises an include element to

3   reference binary data.

1   19.   A computer-readable medium according to Claim 15, wherein a href

2   attribute of the include element provides a universal resource identifier of the binary data

3   to be referenced.

1   20.   A computer-readable medium according to Claim 15, wherein at

2   least one of the first data field and the second data field comprises an include element to

3   reference one of a web resource, an audio resource, and an image resource.

1   21.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure,

2   comprising:

3   a first data fragment encoded according to a first format; and

4   a second data fragment encoded according to a second data format,

5   wherein the first data field and the second data field are homogenized

6   according to a reference encoding format.

1   22.   A computer-readable medium according to Claim 21, wherein the

2   reference encoding is XML.

1   23.   A computer-readable medium according to Claim 22, wherein the

2   homogenized data is encoded into a single XML information set.

1   24.   A computer-readable medium according to Claim 21, wherein both

2   the first and the second data fragment are defined by values corresponding to a respective

3   encoding, length, and content.

1   25.   A computer-readable medium according to Claim 24, wherein both

2   the first data fragment and the second data fragment are formatted as <encoding>

3   <length> <content>.

1   26.   A method of transmitting data to a receiving node, comprising:

2   combining data having at least two different encodings;

3   homogenizing the combined data in accordance with a reference encoding;

4   and

5   transmitting homogenized data to the receiving node over a network.

1   27.   A method according to Claim 26, wherein the reference encoding

2   includes at least one of the at least two different encodings.

1   28.   A method according to Claim 27, wherein the reference encoding is

2   XML.

1   29.   A method according to Claim 28, wherein the combined data is

2   homogenized into a single XML information set.

1   30.   A method according to Claim 26, wherein the combining includes

2   resolving to data.

1   31.   A method according to Claim 26, wherein the combining includes

2   interleaving data.

1   32.   A method according to Claim 30, wherein the combining includes

2   resolving to data using an include element to reference binary data.

1   33.   A method according to Claim 32, wherein an attribute of the include

2   element provides a universal resource identifier of the binary data to be resolved.

1   34.   A method according to Claim 30, wherein the combined data is

2   presented as a MIME serialization.

1   35.   A method according to Claim 32, wherein the include element

2   resolves to cached representations of media resources.

1   36.   A method according to Claim 35, wherein the cached representations

2   of media resources are cached separately from the include element.

1   37.   A method according to Claim 35, wherein the include element

2   resolves to any one of a web resource, an audio resource, and an image resource.

1   38.   A method according to Claim 26, wherein the combining includes

2   combining data fragments, each data fragment being defined by values corresponding to

3   a respective encoding, length, and content.

1   39.   A method according to Claim 26, wherein a data fragment is notated

2   as <encoding> <length> <content>.